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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/772,596	01/30/2001	Mark R. Bennett	END9-2000-0188US1	2376
23550	7590	04/02/2008	EXAMINER	
Hoffman Warnick & D'Alessandro, LLC			ALLEN, WILLIAM J	
75 STATE STREET				
14TH FLOOR			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ALBANY, NY 12207			3625	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			04/02/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

PTOCommunications@hwdpatents.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/772,596	BENNETT ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	WILLIAM J. ALLEN	3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/14/08.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,2,4-11,14,16-23 and 25-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-2, 4-11, 14, 16-23, and 25-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Prosecution History Summary

Claims 1-2, 4-11, 14, 16-23, and 25-51 are pending and rejected as set forth below.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-2, 4-11, 14, 16-23, and 25-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Church et al (US 5794234) in view of Tammaro (US 20010011246).

Regarding claim 11, Church teaches:

receiving on an information exchange system a transaction element from a first trading partner intended for a second trading partner specified by the first trading partner (see at least: abstract, Fig. 6-7);

translating the transaction element from a proprietary schema of the first trading partner in to a universal schema and from the universal schema into a proprietary schema of the second trading partner (see at least: abstract, col. 3 line 60-col. 4 line 2)

*wherein translation of the transaction element includes translating a data format and an application format of the transaction element (see at least: col. 3 lines 60-63, col. 4 lines 6-14, col. 7 lines 37-40); Note: output data files contain transaction type data (i.e. *data format*) and the conversion files are tailored for particular database formats (i.e. *application format*) associated with the accounting system;*

routing the transaction element from the first trading partner in a first communication protocol to the second trading partner in a second different communication protocol (see at least: col. 2 lines 46-51, col. 4 lines 32-37);

sending a response transaction element from the second trading partner to the information exchange system and routing the response transaction element to the first automotive trading partner (see at least: col. 2 lines 46-51, col. 4 lines 32-37, col. 13 lines 34-41); Note: the network routes incoming and outgoing transmissions to and from the appropriate client computers;

mapping the transaction element and the response transaction element with a mapping system, wherein the mapping comprises identifying the first trading partner, the second trading partner, and an application to which the transaction element corresponds (see at least: col. 12 lines 38-54, col. 13 lines 34-41);

managing the transaction element and the response transaction element with a mapping system, wherein the managing step comprises tracking a status of the transaction element and the response transaction element (see at least: col. 13 lines 28-31);

securing the information exchange system with a security system (see at least: col. 7 lines 27-32).

Though Church teaches all of the above as noted, Church does not teach where the information exchange system is an *automotive exchange system* and the trading partners are *automotive*, nor does Church teach *a firewall for controlling access to the computer system* despite teaching the use of a secure computing system.

In the same field of endeavor, Tammaro teaches a method and system are provided which enables automotive dealers to use a standard PC and Internet-type browser software package to enter credit/loan application data over the Internet (see at least: abstract). More importantly, Tammaro provides a server that reformats/translates data as needed to facilitate communication between the different service providers, thereby arranging the data in a format expected by the service provider. The communications are relayed amongst various *automotive industry* service providers such as financial service providers and the department of motor vehicles (see at least: 0025, Figure 1 (#'s 54)). Tammaro also teaches the use of *a firewall for controlling access to the computer system* (see at least: 0024, Figure 1 (#'s 51 and 62)).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have modified the invention of Church to have included such features as taught by Tammaro in order to provide an improved system architecture which eliminates the need for installation of highly specialized computer hardware at each participating retail location, thereby simplifying hardware requirements and increasing ease of access and use at each participating retail location (see at least: Tammaro, 0001, 0004).

Regarding claim 14, Church in view of Tammaro teaches *translating the response transaction element from the second proprietary schema to the universal schema and then from the universal schema to the first proprietary schema* (see at least: Church, col. 2 lines 46-51, col. 4 lines 32-37, col. 13 lines 34-41; Tammaro, 0025). Note: the network routes incoming and outgoing transmissions to and from the appropriate client computers.

Regarding claim 16, Church in view of Tammaro teaches *wherein the first and second automotive trading partners are selected from the group consisting of: an automotive manufacturer, an automotive parts locator, an automotive parts supplier, an automotive lending provider, a credit reporter, a motor vehicle department, an automotive insurance provider, and an automotive consumer facilitator* (see at least: Tammaro, abstract, Fig. 1 (#'s 54), 0025).

Regarding claim 17, Church in view of Tammaro teaches *wherein the transaction element and the response transaction element pertain to an automotive application selected from the group consisting of: automotive parts, automotive sales, automotive service, automotive insurance, automotive registration, automotive financing, automotive warranty, and credit reporting* (see at least: Tammaro, abstract, Fig. 1 (#'s 54), 0025).

The Examiner notes that claims 1-2 and 4-10, 18-23 and 25, and 26-31 closely parallel and are encompassed by claims 11, 14, 16, and 17. Claims 1-2 and 4-10, 18-23 and 25, and 26-31 are thereby rejected for at least the reasons above.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- US 6868388 B1 discloses a network operation center which centrally connects multiple external computer systems belonging to automobile dealers, manufacturers, and vendors of goods and services in the automotive industry. It further provides data translation so that incompatible data formats and structures may be shared, and uses a secure firewall (see at least: abstract, Figure 1 (#3)).
- US 20020095321 A1 discloses the Enterlink bus which provides a common interconnection among various entities in the automotive retail industry and further facilitates data interchange technology (see at least: 0099-0100, Figure 4)
- US 7194436 B2 discloses a method and system for internet based financial auto credit application and is related to the above cited Tammaro

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WILLIAM J. ALLEN whose telephone number is (571)272-1443. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff A. Smith can be reached on (571) 272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Naeem Haq/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3625

/William J Allen/
Examiner, Art Unit 3625